

~~SECRET~~/NOFORN - HANDLE VIA SKEET CHANNELS ONLY

PROJECT SUN STREAK (U)

WARNING NOTICE: INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

PROJECT NUMBER: 0126

SESSION NUMBER: 1

DATE OF SESSION: 7 JUN 88

DATE OF REPORT: 7 JUN 88

START: 1434

END: 1507

METHODOLOGY: CRV

VIEWER IDENTIFIER: 025

1. (S/NF/SK) MISSION: Stage 2 training. Site was the town of Armero, Columbia on the day of a natural disaster (town washed away by mud slide). Monitor intent was for the viewer to experience and describe percepts associated with moving mud.

2. (S/NF/SK) VIEWER TASKING: Coordinates 0126/1185.

3. (S/NF/SK) COMMENTS: Excellent session from beginning to end. 025 experienced the first strong Aesthetic Impact (AI).

4. (S/NF/SK) EVALUATION:  3

SG1J


CPT, USA

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CLASSIFIED BY: DIA-DT
DECLASSIFY : OADR

moving magma and usually are the first signs of an impending major eruption. The U.S. Geological Survey said yesterday that Nevado del Ruiz suffered "two catastrophic eruptions" Wednesday night between 11 p.m. and midnight.

The back-to-back eruptions on the northeast flank of the mountain melted enough ice and snow on the mountaintop to trigger what the USGS called "two catastrophic mud flows down the northeast flank," which were channeled directly into the Lagunillas River in the broad valley at the base of the mountain. Eyewitnesses said the mud in four

and tallest of six volcanoes strung out in a line through central Colombia. Nevado del Ruiz is the northernmost volcano in the Andes Mountains. Nevado del Ruiz has also been the most destructive of the six Colombian volcanoes, erupting in a "thunderous" explosion on March 12, 1595, and erupting again in 1828 and 1829. The volcano was "still smoking" in 1831 after its two 19th-century eruptions.

The Colombian mountain was also the scene of a major earthquake on Feb. 19, 1845, that shook loose enough snow and ice on top of the mountain to trigger one of the

largest mud slides in South American history. The USGS' Dr. Darrel G. Herd described it as a "wall of mud, trees and ice that went racing down the valley to the Rio Magdalena, killing an estimated 1,000 people" then living in the valley.

Why did Nevado del Ruiz go almost 400 years without a major eruption? Geologists say they don't know, but many suspect it is in the makeup of the magma that lies below the volcanoes that formed the Andes Mountains.

"The magmas in the Andes are very viscous and stickier, let's say, than the magmas that lie beneath the Hawaiian volcanoes," Christian-

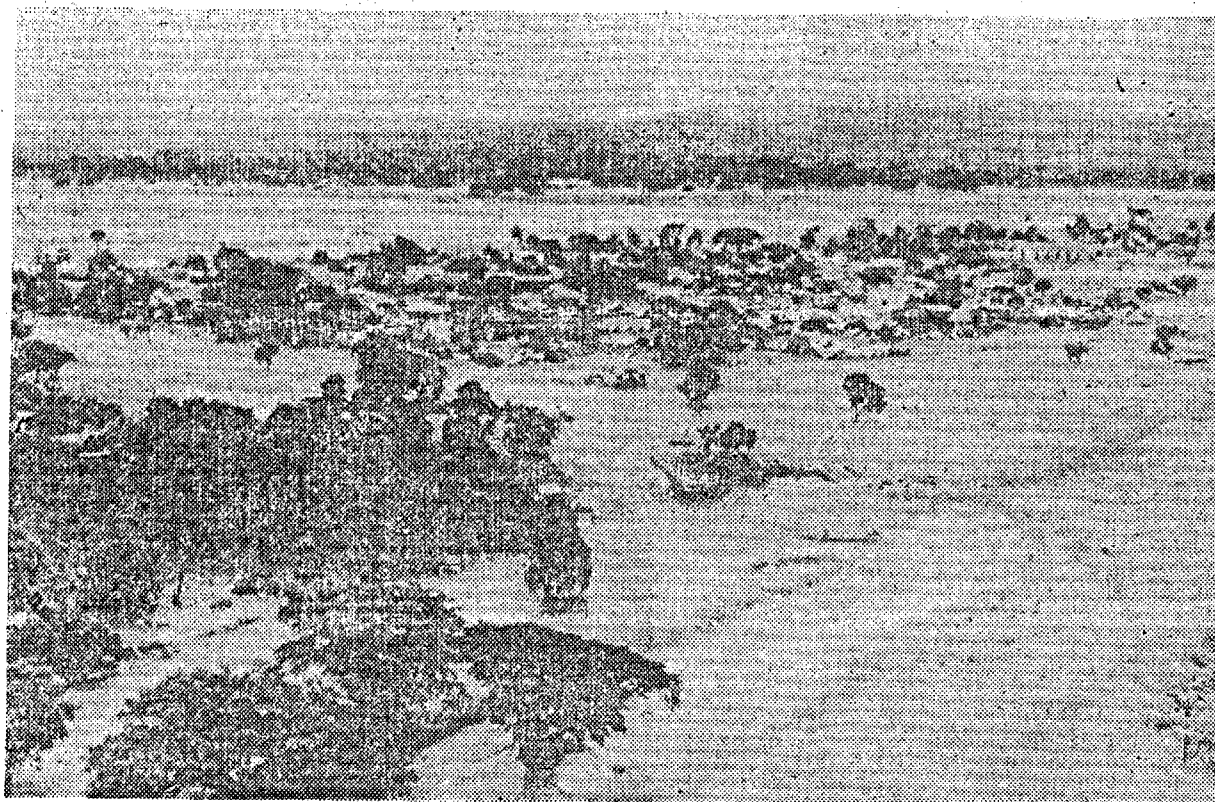
son said. This means they retain their gases, allowing pressure to build rather than venting them in a way that would relieve the pressure that builds up inside volcanoes, he said. "Hawaiian volcanoes are always blowing off pressure, which might be one reason they don't erupt catastrophically."

Another reason lies with volcanoes themselves, among the most unpredictable phenomena of nature. Said Dr. Meyer Rubin of the USGS: "Volcanoes can go 1,000 years without an eruption. There's no way to predict their behavior."

The upward movement of magma can continue off and on for years,

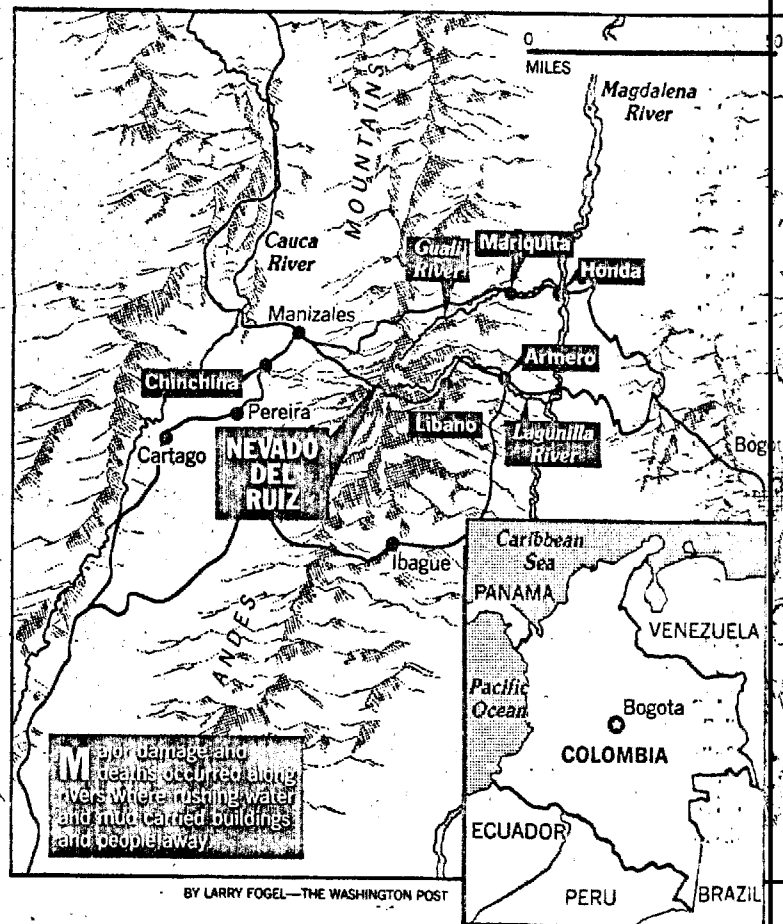
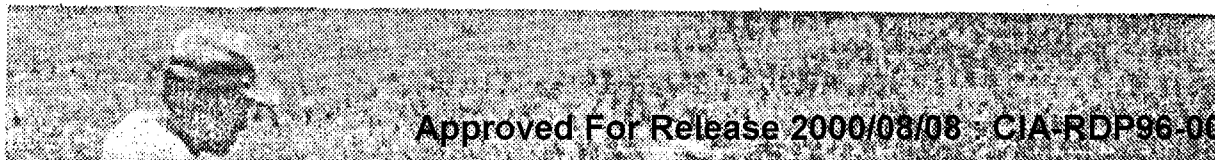
the weight of the rocks above are holding it in. The result could be another eruption. The twin eruptions of Nevado del Ruiz Wednesday night could thus signal the start of an eruptive period that could last another 10 years.

There is also the chance that Nevado del Ruiz will have an impact on the world's weather. Depending on how much sulfur dioxide gas pumps into the upper atmosphere the erupting volcano could send a cloud of gas and dust around the world blocking just enough sunlight from reaching the surface to cool the earth by a degree or two.



ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mud surrounds and partially buries Armero, as seen from a nearby hill. The town center is inundated at lower right.

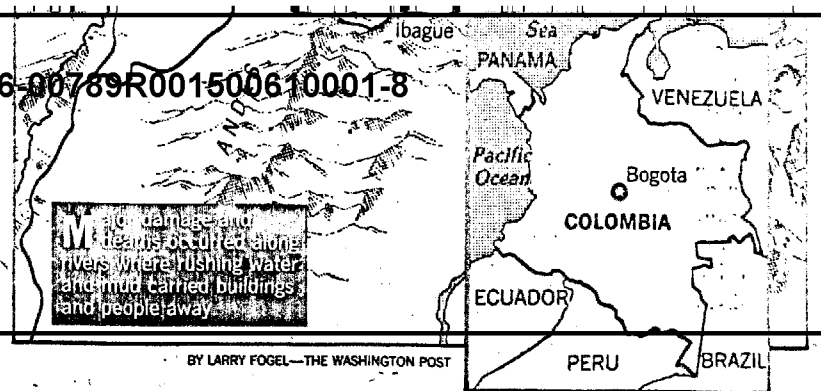


Major damage and deaths occurred along rivers where rushing water and mud carried buildings and people away.

BY LARRY FOGEL—THE WASHINGTON POST

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ASSOCIATED PRESS



Some wept. Others, dressed only in the underwear or bedclothes they had on when the disaster struck, shivered in shock in the warm air here.

CPYRGHT

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Ruined Town's Survivors Describe Night of Horror

ARMERO, From A1

her and her family as they climbed to the second story to pray for their lives.

Sandra Patricia Perez, 13, her face badly scratched and her head wrapped in a white cloth, said she nearly choked beneath the mud but somehow remained conscious as she tumbled away from Armero in the flood.

Hortensia Oliveros, 19 years old and eight months pregnant, saw the rushing water sweep their 11-month-old child out of her husband's arms. In the panic, she heard her husband shout to her to grab a branch, but that was the last she heard of him. She ended up near a road outside of Armero, screaming

in Armero instructed him to take cover in the stadium. There, he saw perhaps 3,000 people pressing against the entrance when the torrent of hot mud came over them.

He, too, was immersed in the flood, he said, which scalded his body. Holding to a tree branch, he drifted six miles to the town of Guayaquil, where at 5:30 this morning he was rescued. "I was just about to give up," he said. His wife, eight months pregnant, has not been found.

In this town, about six miles north of Armero, flood waters knocked out a bridge spanning the Guali River and demolished 10 to 20 waterside homes, said residents. Some people decided to evacuate, but hundreds of curious onlookers



UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL/REUTER

Colombian rescue workers assist a woman washed away from the town of Armero by the muddy flood waters.

n church—a 5- or 6-story building—was almost completely buried, said.

cheverry made it to safety, he lained, by building a bridge to ground with bits of wood, picking his way past pieces of pots, television sets, homes and bodies.

peaking calmly but bitterly, the ptal administrator criticized ernment authorities for hesitating before declaring an emergency.

pite reports of volcanic activity 3 p.m. yesterday, he said, national radio stations were still advising

after a natural dam of rocks and stone above the town broke under the force of onrushing waters.

The destructive mud flows had been predicted in a report presented only yesterday by Colombian geologists. The report was ordered several months ago after Nevado del Ruiz started showing early signs of reawakening. It was the scene of an earthquake in 1845 that set off floods and killed about 1,000, according to historian Joaquin Acosta.

The last time lava flowed was in

But less accurately—as last night's events proved—the report also predicted that the flow of mud would be slow and easily permit the evacuation of surrounding populations. Citing Armero specifically, the study—as summarized in today's editions of the Colombian daily El Tiempo—said the town could be cleared within two hours without danger.

The disaster struck along a central air traffic corridor and its explosion last night was witnessed by

AV - none
PI - none (ret)

025
7 June 1988
9434

0126
1155

A. across
space
hand
B. hand

0126
1185

A. shifts up
over slowly
down
B. motion
movement

A. short rapid
movement
putting
position

2

0126
1185-

A. across
hand
B. no-B

0126
1185-

A. enclosed
ami-hand
B. no-B


S-2
Dark
almost black
but
note (unmarked)

AT-DK
2.0000000000000000
as if my hands
were touching
each other

3

0126
1185

A. core

AOL-BK
Machney

gppppp
dumb

S-2
vibration
Black
Dark
light pencil
has
enclaved
Dark
no translation
I for inside

Edited out
1999/08/08

1507